

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2006. Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application and stand rejected. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, and claims 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11 have been amended herein.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner, Suzanne Dino Barrett, for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, David W. Dorton, during the personal interview conducted June 30, 2006. During the interview, claim 1 was discussed with respect to U.S. Patent No. 4,895,008 to Blake. The Examiner indicated that an amendment to the claims to recite that the electronically actuated lock mechanism automatically moves the cam from the unlocked position to the locked position would be given further consideration. Applicant notes that this claim language is presented in originally filed claim 16. Accordingly, various claims have been amended herein to depend from claim 16. Applicants assert that the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,895,008 to Blake. Claims 1 and 16 are the only independent claims of this rejected group. Claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 2 because Blake '008 does not teach or suggest:

a lock catch having an engaged condition wherein said lock

core is secured against movement from said first position to said second position, and a disengaged condition wherein said lock core is movable between said first position and said second condition.

Specifically, lock cylinder 48 of Blake '008 is freely rotatable to engage second section 90 of locking arm 50 with latch 74 (referred to in the Office Action as being equivalent to the claimed lock catch) so that latch 74 is moved to release cam 80. Latch 74, therefore, does not secure lock cylinder 48 against movement from a first position, corresponding to a locked position of the cam, to a second position, corresponding to an unlocked position of the cam, as required by claim 2. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 5 each depend from amended claim 2 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above for claim 2. Applicants further traverse the rejection of claim 5 because Blake '008 fails to teach or suggest an electronically actuated lock mechanism comprising "a release member operable . . . to move said lock core between said first position and said second position," as recited in claim 5 (emphasis added). Rather, the solenoid 64 of Blake '008 only moves latch 74 out of engagement with cam 80, and does not move the lock cylinder 48. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 4 and 5 over Blake '008 be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 16 because Blake '008 does not teach or suggest:

an electronically actuated lock mechanism cooperating with said manually actuated lock mechanism to automatically move said cam selectively from said locked position toward

said unlocked position, and from said unlocked position
toward said locked position.

This aspect of the claimed invention was discussed during the personal interview on June 30, 2006, and the Examiner indicated that this feature would be given further consideration. Applicants note that the solenoid 64 of Blake '008 is operable only to move latch 74 out of engagement with slot 82 of cam 80 so that pin 86 can rotate cam 80 when the drawer is opened. The solenoid 64 does not "automatically move said cam selectively . . . from said unlocked position toward said locked position," as required by claim 16. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 16 over Blake '008 be withdrawn.

Claim 8 has been amended such that claims 8 and 9 now depend from independent claim 16. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above for claim 16 and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claim 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake '008 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,385,039 to Feldpausch et al. Claim 3 depends from independent claim 2 and therefore includes each and every feature recited in claim 2. Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 3 because Blake '008 fails to teach or suggest "a lock catch having an engaged condition wherein said lock core is secured against movement from said first position to said second position," as discussed above with respect to claim 2. Applicants further assert that there is no motivation to modify

Blake '008 in view of Feldpausch '039, as asserted by the Examiner. Specifically, Feldpausch '039 is directed to an electronic lock box wherein a lock 20 includes a key reader 46 that can be manually moved in linear translation between locked and unlocked positions. In contrast, the lock cylinder 48 of Blake '008 is configured only for rotating movement to engage second section 90 of locking arm 50 with latch 74. There is no teaching or suggestion in Feldpausch '039 to modify a rotatable lock cylinder, such as the lock mechanism of Blake '008, to include a lock catch having an engaged condition wherein the lock cylinder is secured against movement from a first, locked position to a second, unlocked position as required by claim 3. Moreover, Feldpausch '039 fails to teach or suggest how a rotatable lock cylinder could be modified to include such a lock catch. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 3 over Blake '008 in view of Feldpausch '039 be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Blake '008 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,361 to Hoffman. Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and therefore includes every feature recited in claim 5. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 6 because Blake '008 does not teach or suggest "a release member operable to move . . . said lock core between said first position and said second position," as discussed above with respect to claim 5.

Hoffman '361 fails to cure this deficiency. Specifically, Hoffman '361 is directed to a keyless locking system wherein a locking lever 205 is moved by actuating a motor 214 to turn a screw drive shaft 210 connected to the locking lever by a spring wire 204, so that locking lever 205 is moved into and out of slot 209. Motor 214 and locking lever

205, however, do not move a lock core between a first, locked position, and a second, unlocked position as required by claim 6. Rather, the connecting arm 208 of Hoffman '361 is moved by manually manipulating the knob 200 after locking lever 205 is removed from the slot 209. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 6 based on Blake '008 in view of Hoffman '361 be withdrawn.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from independent claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claim 7 is in condition for allowance because Blake '008 fails to teach or suggest an electronically actuated lock mechanism cooperating with a manually actuated lock mechanism to automatically move a cam from an unlocked position toward a locked position, as discussed above with respect to claim 16.

Claims 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blake '008 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,746,091 to Friar et al. Claims 10 and 11 are the only independent claims of this rejected group. Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the electronically actuated lock mechanism cooperates with the manually actuated lock mechanism to automatically move the cam between the unlocked position and the locked position, in a manner similar to claim 16. Claim 11 has been amended in a similar manner.

Claims 10 and 11 are therefore in condition for allowance because Blake '008 does not teach or suggest an electronically actuated lock mechanism that cooperates with a cam or a manually actuated lock mechanism to automatically move the cam or manually actuated lock mechanism between unlocked and locked positions, as discussed above with respect to claim 16. Friar '091 does not teach or suggest an

electronically actuated lock mechanism that automatically moves a cam or manually actuated lock mechanism between unlocked and locked positions. The combination of Blake '008 with Friar '091, therefore, fails to cure the deficiencies of Blake '008. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 10 and 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 12-15 each depend from independent claim 11 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 12-15 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due in connection with this submission. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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